Late Bloomer

BY ZEALFORART

EPISODE 11. AN UNEXPECTED MEETING

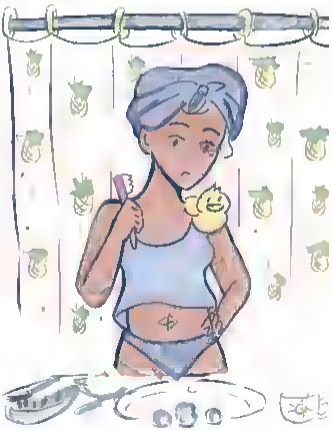
AFTER WORK YESTERDAY, FLORA, WENDIE

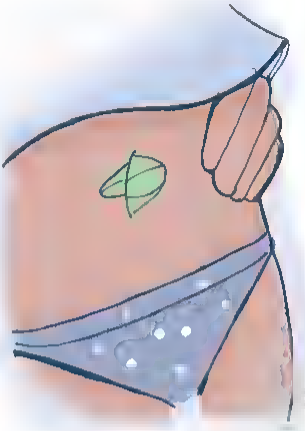
AND I DECIDED TO VISIT DAISY AT THE HOSPITAL.

HOWEVER, I HAD TO LEAVE EARLY. I STARTED TO FEEL QUEASY WITH AN UNCOMFORTABLE ITCH NEAR MY BUD.

THAT'S WHEN, THIS MORNING, I NOTICED..

MY BUD SPROUTED A LEAF. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHEN OR HOW IT HAPPENED.





ONE THING I DO KNOW, MY MUM SAID WHEN MY DAD WAS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY, HER LEAF BEGAN TO SPROUT IMMEDIATELY.

I KNOW IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN FROM ONE OF THOSE HORRIFIC DATES..

WHICH MAKES ME EVEN MORE CURIOUS... WHO IS MAKING ME SPROUT?

2043
WHERE IS FLORA? I NEED TO TELL HER ABOUT MY BUD.

OKAY COOL, SHE IS AT HER DESK.
WAIT A MINUTE, IS THAT DAISY'S REPLACEMENT?

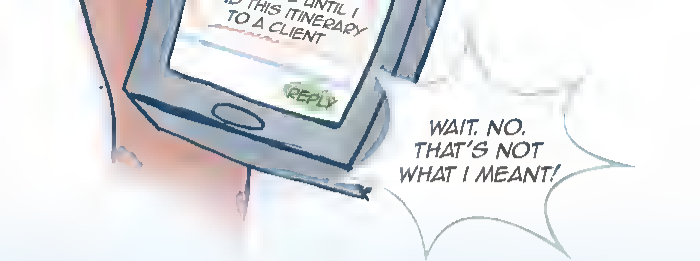
OH MY GOSH, THAT'S THE GUY PING ATTACKED.
CRAP! HE'S PROB-

ABLY GOING TO REMEMBER ME ..
THIS IS BAD. I CAN'T LET HIM SEE ME..
I CAN'T GO BACK OUT THERE. HE'S GOING TO RECOGNIZE ME

LET ME TEXT FLORA. SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISTRACT HIM WHILE I GO TO MY DESK..

Bzzzzt
HMM..?

HEY, I'M IN THE BATHROOM.
I'M IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION I NEED YOUR HELP
REPLY
FLORA S.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU NEED TOILET PAPER
BECAUSE I WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING



I DON'T NEED TOILET PAPER! LOOK, I KNOW WHO DAISY'S REPLACEMENT IS.

HE'S THE GUY I TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT PING TAUNTED AT THE GROCERY STORE THAT ONE TIME.

OOHH.. I REMEMBER YOU MENTIONING THAT.

YEAH, I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT REMEMBER ME. WHAT DO I DO?

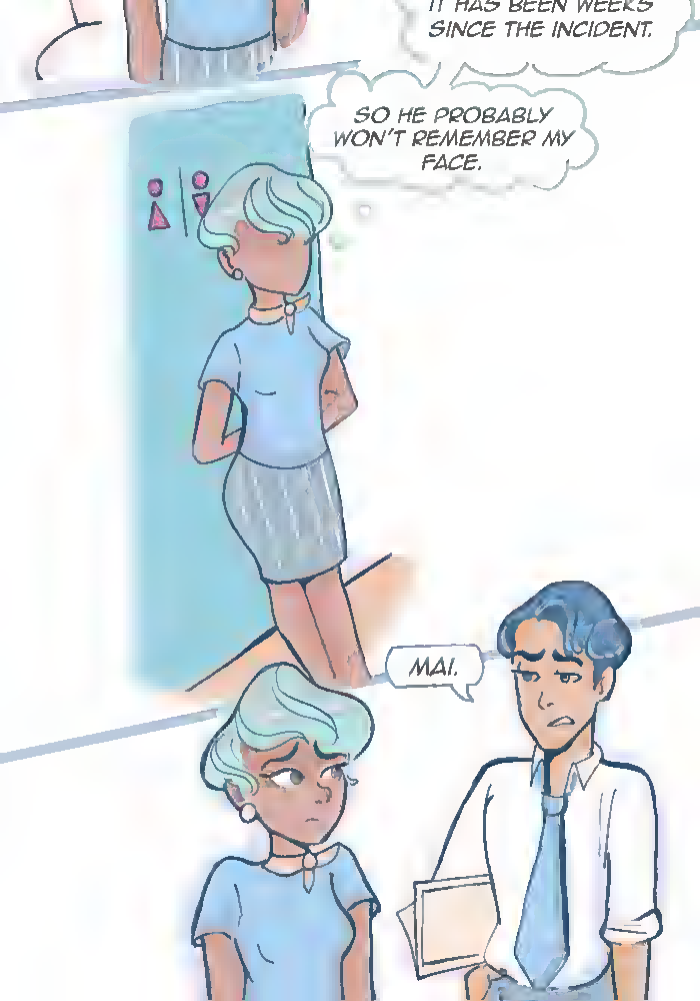
OKAY, SO THIS HAPPENED A FEW WEEKS AGO. RIGHT?

YEAH..

WELL, I'M PRETTY SURE HE FORGOT THE INCIDENT. SO STOP HIDING IN THE BATHROOM.

ALSO, EPRILLE WILL NOTICE YOU'RE ABSENT.

OKAY, FOR ONCE FLORA MIGHT BE RIGHT.


IT HAS BEEN WEEKS SINCE THE INCIDENT.
SO HE PROBABLY WON'T REMEMBER MY FACE.
MAI.

I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO MEET SOMEONE. COME THIS WAY.

HEY JOLINE, THIS IS MAI ROSE, WHO I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT
CRAP.
HELLO.

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME, EPRILLE.

THIS IS THE WOMAN I TOLD YOU ABOUT WHOSE GOOSE ATTACKED ME.
EXCUSE ME?

PING IS A DUCK, NOT A GOOSE!
DUCK, GOOSE, WHATEVER. WHO THE HECK CARRIES A WILD BIRD AROUND WITH THEM?!

I DO! AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH TAKING MY PET OUTSIDE ONCE IN A WHILE...
PET? WOMAN, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A WILD BIRD VICIOUSLY ATTACKING PEOPLE.
WOMAN? MY NAME IS MAI AND I'D APPER-

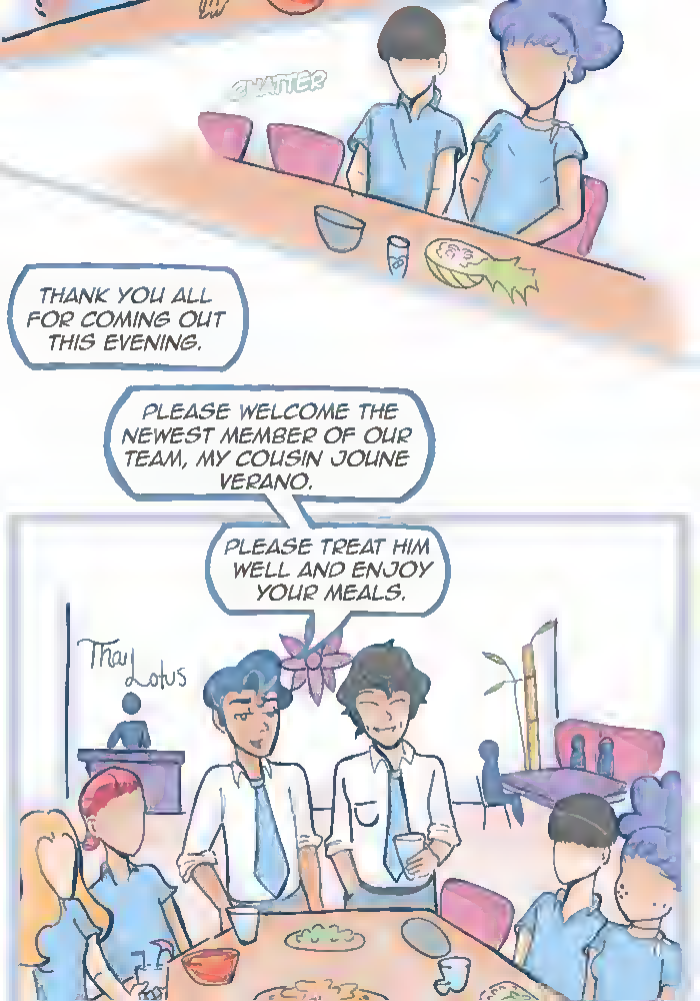
BOTH OF YOU QUIT ACTING LIKE CHILDREN. THIS IS A PROFESSIONAL WORK ENVIRONMENT!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO ARGUE, DO IT ELSEWHERE. I'M RUNNING A BUSINESS HERE.
NOW, MS. ROSE, THIS IS MY COUSIN, JOUNE VERANO.

STARTING TOMORROW, YOU WILL BE PLACED ON WORK PROBATION. YOU WILL BE SHADOWING JOLINE.
WHY HIM?
WELL, BECAUSE I'M YOUR BOSS AND I SAID SO. ALSO, HE IS THE COMPANY'S BEST REGIONAL MANAGER.
WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?

FLORA S.
GOOD LUCK WORKING WITH THE NEW GUY
REPLY
SHUTUP. YOU ARE SO ANNOYING SOMETIMES.

THAI Lotus
OPEN

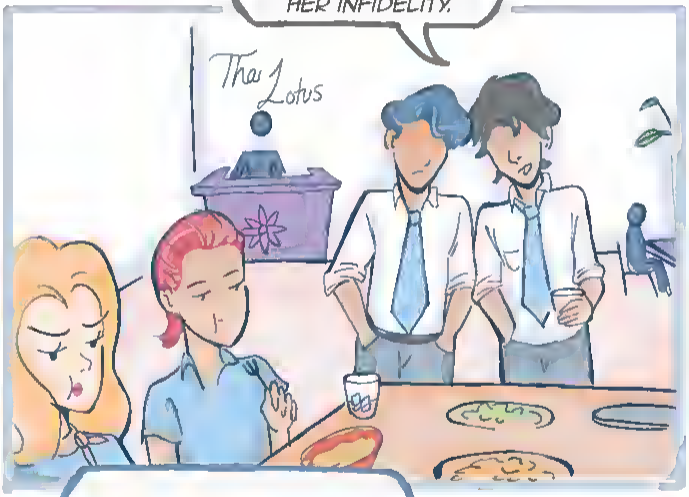
CHANTE?


CHATTER
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT THIS EVENING.
PLEASE WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR TEAM, MY COUSIN JOUNE VERANO.
PLEASE TREAT HIM WELL AND ENJOY YOUR MEALS.
Thai Lotus

EPRILLE, I HAVE A QUESTION..

..WHY IS MARCHE STILL WORKING HERE?

I THOUGHT YOU TERMINATED HER AFTER HER INFIDELITY.

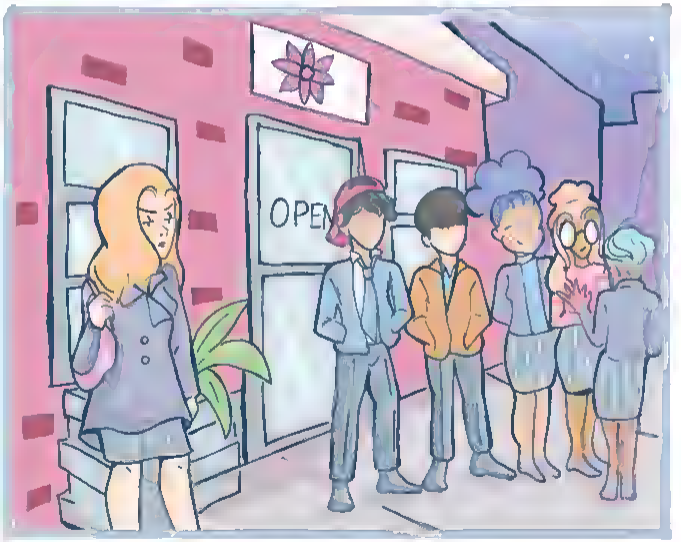


I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE, BUT I CAN'T FIND ANYONE BETTER AS THE VIZ MANAGER.

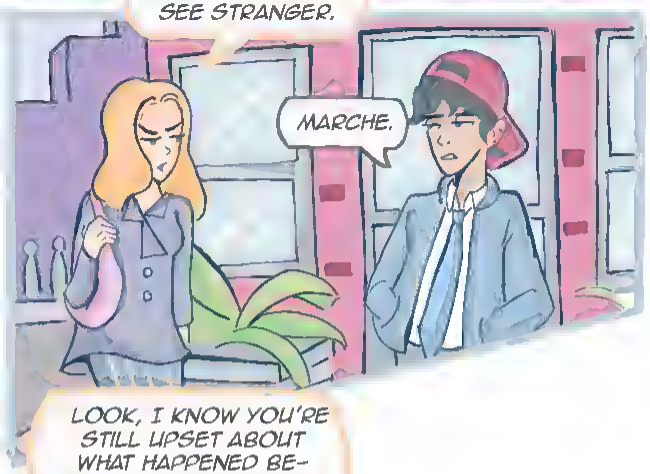
MAN, WHAT IS GOING ON?

THIS GALIVOYAGE

BRANCH IS A MESS. YOU HAVE YOUR EX-GIRL-FRIEND WORKING HERE.
THE SALES ARE DROP-PING. YOU'RE SHORT-HANDED ON EMPLOYEES AND THEY ARE SLACKING
IF THE FAMILY FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS, THEY ARE GOING TO REPLACE YOU WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP.



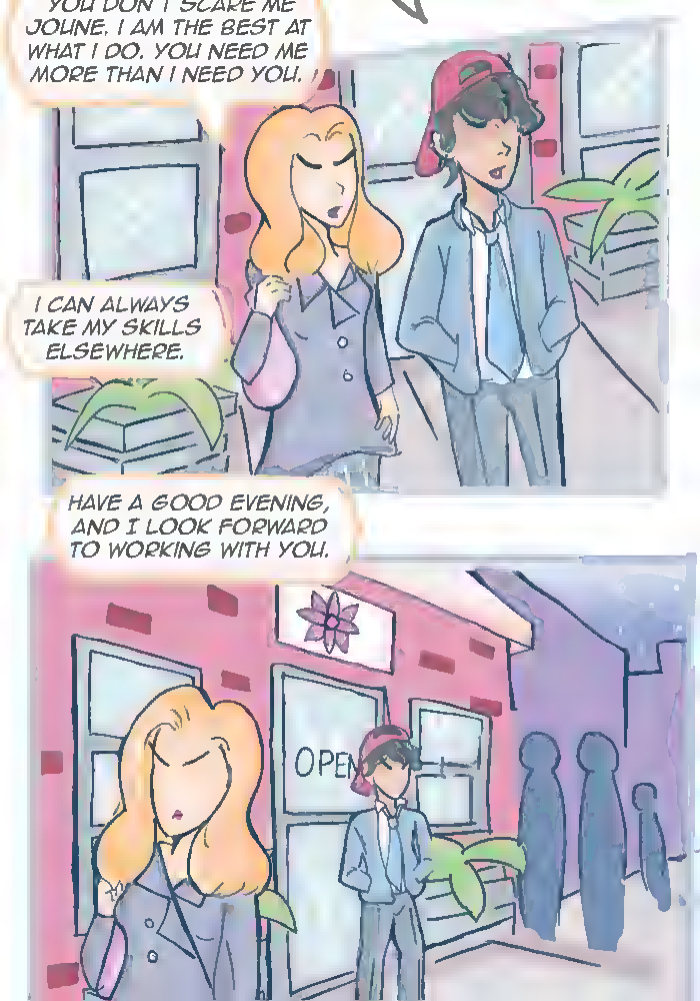
LONG TIME, NO



THAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND HIM. IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO SPEAK ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MY COUSIN.

I'M SURPRISED HE STILL ALLOWS YOU TO WORK HERE AFTER YOUR INCIDENT.

IF YOU START ANY TROUBLE WHILE I'M HERE, TRUST ME. IT WILL BE THE END OF YOUR CAREER


YOU DON'T SCARE ME JOLINE. I AM THE BEST AT WHAT I DO. YOU NEED ME MORE THAN I NEED YOU.
I CAN ALWAYS TAKE MY SKILLS ELSEWHERE.
HAVE A GOOD EVENING, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
OPEN

TAXI!
OPEN
WHY IS IT SO HARD TO GET A FREAKIN' CAB AROUND HERE.

MAI, RIGHT?
YEAH?
WELL MAI, YOU NEED TO BE AT WORK AT 6:30AM TOMORROW.
AND WHY IS THAT? IS THIS ABOUT MY DUCK ATTACKING YOU? LOOK, I APOLOGIZE.

NO, IT'S BECAUSE YOU SUCK AT WHAT YOU DO, AND WE NEED TO FIX THAT.

I EXPECT YOU TO BE AT WORK BY 6:30AM, OR WE WILL RECONSIDER TERMINATING YOUR EMPLOYMENT.

SEE YOU TOMORROW MAI!

STAY TUNED!

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